The Evening Star

No. 14,086.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1898

No Immediate Bombardment of Havana Expected.

SPECIAL CABINET MEETING

Proclamation for Blockade of Cuban Ports.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Already Prepared and Will Be Issued Today.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED

The Cruiser Nashville captured the lumber-laden Spanish ship Buena Ventura and towed the prize into Key West.

Captain Sampson's fleet sailed for Cuba this morning.

Minister Woodford's train was stoned while leaving Spain. An effort was made by Spanish officials to arrest his private secretary.

The President is opposed to asking Congress to make a formal declaration of war.

The President signed the congressional joint resolution putting an embargo on coal and other war materials.

· A proclamation notifying nations of the blockade of Havana harbor was signed by the President.

Gen. L. W. Colby, organizer of the ment to assist in the invasion of Cu-

Col. Wm. H Nash was nominated by the President to be commissary general of subsistence, with the rank of brigadier general.

Many applications for positions

are being made to the War Depart-

Captain Sampson, in command of the North Atlantic squadron, will be temporarily appointed a rear admiral.

Leutenant Commander Cowles Eng and.

Conferees representing both houses agreed on the volunteer army bill, and the report was adopted by both houses and sent to the Presi-

Pres lent McKinley was at breakfast by 9:05 o'c ock this morning. Two old friends, Webb C Hayes and Gen. Hastings of Ohio, enjoyed the meal with him. Mr. Hayes is the son of ex-President Hayes, and General Hastings was colonel of the regiment in which M: McKinley served during the war. They had been the President's guests for a day or two

It was unusually quiet at the White House during the forenoon, largely in anicipation of the assemblage of the Presilent's official council, for it was the reguar cabinet day.

Proposed Declaration of War.

Senator Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, and Senator Cannon f Utah were with the President early. enator Cannon's visit, however, was of a argely personal character, but he expressed he belief that there would be a formal decaration of war made by Congress tomorow, and that it would be put through the ienate within a few minutes after noon, when the period allowed by the ultimatum of this government would expire. He did not, he said, believe it would be proper for this government to take such action until after that limit had expired.

Senator Davis was in conference with Mr. McKinley for a half hour.

At its conclusion he announced that there had been no material change in the situation and that everything was progressing satisfactorily. He was in an especially happy mood, and as he drove off for the sible. Senate jocularly called back, "Please put me down as reticent. That's what one of my colleagues in the Senate takes occasion to suggest sometimes, and just mark me likewise."

He said he understood the President would issue the expected call for volunteers before the close of the day.

Asked as to the probability of a formal declaration of war by Congress, he said government the full limit of time imposed

Senator McMillan of Michigan and Senator Wilson of Washington, Representa- kind.

tives Curtis of Iowa and Babcock of Wisconsin, the latter the chairman of the republican congressional committee, were also with the President. Mr. Babcock's mission related to the proposed bond issue to meet war emergencies. He urged that it be made a popular loan, saying it was only right that the people should be given an opportunity to take part in the issue. The President, it is understood, agreed in this view, and Secretary Bliss, who has also been talked with, it is stated, is heart-

A member of the cabinet at 11 o'clock today, just before the cabinet assembled, said it had not been settled by the administration whether to ask Congress to make a formal declaration of war.

bonds should bear interest at 3 per cent.

ily in favor of it. Mr. Babcock thinks the

Would Not Favor War Declaration Representative Grout of Vermont, after conference with Secretary Alger, said the administration would not recommend declaration of war.

Special Cabinet Meeting. The special meeting of the cabinet which

adjourned at 1 o'clock today did not agree upon any changes from the plans formed yesterday, and already given in The Star. The session was devoted chiefly to discussing details of these plans.

The President read to the cabinet a proclamation drawn up by Judge Day blockading the ports of Cuba. This kind of work is always preliminary to a war, and is a notification to the countries of the world to keep their ships away from the blockaded ports. Under the proclamation no more vessels will be permitted to clear for or from the ports of Cuba. It will be only a few days until this information is known to ship owners throughout the world. The President signed the proclamation.

The cabinet had received no official information of the capture of a lumber ship by the gunboat Nashville.

Privateering Discussed.

It is said that there was some talk in the cabinet about a change of front on the question of privateering. This talk was based wholly on the possibility that Spain may resort to privateering against the opinion of the world. If Spain does resort to this method this country will at once retaliate.

The cabinet discussed the subject of whether a formal declaration of war is necessary by Congress. Of course, it was agreed that this question was wholly in the hands of Congress. The President and cabinet are of the opinion that war can now be carried on without another declaration from Congress. It is considered that the recent resolution of Congress was a virtual declaration of war and further that Spain's action in the case of Minister Woodford is a declaration of war on her

It may be stated that many of the republican leaders agree with the adminis-

Senator Davis' Opinion.

Senator Davis, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Senate, this morning said: "My own opinion is that a will offer its services to the govern already been made in the Cuban resolution passed by Congress, but I do not know what will be decided on by Congress."

Senator Cannon of Utah, who was at the White House, but did not talk with the President, said: "I think a declaration of the District militia would be detailed, and war ought to be made tomorrow, immediately following the expiration of the time allowed Spain in the President's ultimatum. I think a resolution declaring war should be reported to the Senate at one minute after 12 o'clock tomorrow, and should be passed by 12:05, giving four minutes for a roll call of the Senate.'

Spanish Citizens in This Country. There was no talk of a proclamation warning Spanish citizens in this country that a state of hostilities exists and giving them time to get out of this country. It was said that Attorney General Griggs had has been assigned to the command of prepared such a resolution, but this is not the cruiser Topeka, on its way from correct. In 1785 this country and Spain entered into a treaty providing that in case of war between them Spanish merchants and citizens residing in the United States should be allowed one year in which to take their departure. Citizens of this country were to be also given the same privilege. This old treaty is not now necessary. Spanish citizens living here car remain so long as they do not become spies for Spain.

Cabinet members ridiculed a floating story that Spain has ceded Cuba to Austria. This would mean that Austria also wants to fight.

No Immediate Bombardment.

An authoritative statement of great importance was made to a representative of The Star by a cabinet member this after-

It was that those people who are expecting an immediate bombardment of Havana and bloody fights at once are likely to be disappointed. The orders to the Key West fleet are simply to blockade Havana and such other Cuban ports as can be conven iently covered by the fleet. No hostile shots are to be fired into Havana, for a short while at least, unless the fleet is attacked in any direction.

The official statement is made that the administration does not fear an attack from the Spanish fleet now at the Cape Verde Islands. The President does not believe that this fleet will ever move toward Cuban waters. "Spain would not send this fleet over to be swallowed," are the words of a high official. When the same official was asked if he thought this Spanish fleet would come to American waters to make an attack on any port he answered in the negative. "It would meet the same fate as if it went to Cuban waters," he said. He intimated strengly that the flying squadron will be held in reserve to take care of any Spanish fleet coming in this

These plans are based wholly on the belief that the Key West fleet will not be attacked by the Spaniards. The war is to be a bloodless one if such a thing is pos-

In a short time, however, when sufficient troops are ready a forward movement will be made by both the navy and army. In the meantime it is believed by the administration on well founded information that the insurgents will harass Blanco and his soldiers to desperation.

The present situation is likely to largely swell the ranks of Gomez's armies. He will get plenty of ammunition now and will become bold enough to march almost it was likely that action would be taken to Havana. With Gomez in the rear and tomorrow. That would allow the Spanish starvation in front, Blanco will have to surrender or begin an attack on the fleet. The administration rejects the idea that Spain will be able to carry succor or aid to Blanco by warships or vessels of any

GUARD NOW READY

District Troops Awaiting Orders From the President.

ACTIVITY AT CENTER MARKET

Awkward Squads Drilled.

THE NEW ORGANIZATIONS

Probably never before in its history have there been such scenes of excitement about the Center market as now prevail. It certainly now resembles a citadel more than a market. Although it is not at all compulsory, while at the same time the men have been notified to hold themselves in readiness to respond to the call expected to be issued by the President at any moment to the National Guard, a majority of the men were at the Center Market armory this morning. Some in uniform, some in "cits" dress, but all with looks of

anticipation on their faces. There was such a large crowd of persons about the balconies of the building and in the quarters that this morning about 10 o'clock orders were issued making those who had no business there leave the place, as it was too crowded for comfort. Guards were posted on the bridge leading to the armory and at the street entrance, who questioned every one trying to enter. A crowd of interested persons gathered on the street outside, and watched proceedirgs, or what they could see of them from that point. At intervals the guard came in for a share of good-natured "kidding" from the enlookers, which was accepted as good naturedly on the part of the victim.

"You needn't hold that gun like you were afraid of it, sonny," said one old fellow, with a chuckle. "It ain't goin' ter explode in your hands.'

"Looks like he wuz skeered it would get away from him, and he couldn't git another," said a second teaser, and so the ball was rolled from one to another.

The guards maintained their composure well under the circumstances, however, and realized that it was no reflection on their ability to perform the duties of a 'regular" to the satisfaction of their com-

Pretty Girls With Bright Eyes. As was natural, the pretty girls were

far more interested in the movements of the militia boys than if they had been regulars, and a number of them were observed watching with bright eyes acress the bridge for some brother or lover who was waiting at the armory.

Inside things presented a military appearance entirely in keeping with the whole. Recruiting was being carried on, a guard being stationed, as in the regular American Cuban Volunteer Legion, declaration of war is not necessary, having which were designated by signs posted up army, in front of the recruiting places, eenspienously different companies were likewise similarly designated. Inside these the men were passing away the time speculating as to how long the war would last, where one and all expressing the wish that they could be sent out immediately.

Some of them sang; one had a harmonica, which he was playing, as the others listened, and others of the boys were congregated at a table set at the east end of the upstairs balcony, and indulged in a sociable game of "seven up" to kill tire. Many of them yawned and did not hesitate to swear at the delay to which they considered they were being subjected.

In the armory proper the "awkward squads" were receiving finishing touches to their military education, while there was a crowd of onlookers. There was an air of business about the

whole which showed that the men were not there for the fun of the thing; that they were in earnest, and that the Spanish should have been more careful how they trifled with American affairs or permitted one of Uncle Sam's warships to be blown up in a supposedly friendly harbor. The watchword among the boys was: "Remember the Maine."

"That affair the Spanish were pleased to erm an 'accident' will be more of an inentive for short, sharp fighting than anything which could have happened," said one of the men. "It furnishes the finest pretext in the world to carve them up. If all of them feel like I do, for every sailor who met his death there should be an acount of more than double interest."

The martial spirit was evident everywhere. This and the air of unrest were the most noticeable things about the men. They were all anxiety to be given orders to move somewhere, to do something-only to be ander orders, one way or another. The Mothers There.

There were some mothers who visited the

armory today to speak to their sons, so certain did they seem to be that they would be called out in a short time, and would see fighting in a few days. They appeared to affairs philosophically, and beyond words of advice, did not talk much. They left as if they knew their offspring were doing their duty, and there were no regrets to be expressed, whatever they might have thought, over the fact that the boys had enlisted.

couterments, fully satisfying themselves that everything was in readiness for the call of "Time!" when the fight between Uncle Sam and Spain-that of a heavy weight with a light weight who had been foolish enough to force a match-would be-

Some of the boys looked after their ac-

General Harries went up to the War Department this morning to see if he could learn anything of the contemplated detail of the District guard. He stated to a Star reporter that he had heard nothing new. There are several vacancies to be filled

in the Brigade Band. Some of the man who were members of it will be unable to leave here, and it is considered desirable that the organization should have its full quota. Applications for enlistment should be made to the band headquarters, room 22 in the Center Market Armory, after 8 'clock tonight. The Naval Battalion Bill.

The bill for the organization of the naval cattalion of the District, which has been passed by the Senate, is held up now on the desk of the Speaker.

In conversation with a Star reporter this morning Mr. Hains of the patent office, with whom the idea of forming the battalion originated and by whom one was or ganized, stated that he did not understand why the measure was not acted upon. The

present time is regarded as one when the battalion, which has been described in The Star, would be most acceptable. General Harries has expressed himself several times as being heartily in favor of it, as an adjunct to the militia. Under the bill about 400 men would be available, and these could be utilized for the defense of the capital, as outlined in The Star of

about a month ago. About 150 men are actually members of the battalion, but, as Mr. Hains states, it is deemed proper that the organization should have a legal standing. No appro-Companies Being Recruited and the priation is asked for at the present, and the chief thing to be provided by the government would be a monitor, such as has been given naval reserves in other places, or a ship of some kind. Mr. Hains, who has attended the Naval Academy at Annapolis, is regarded as in every way capable of filling the position of commander. He says he is flooded with applications every day for enlistment in the battalion, but nothing can be done until the bill is

Ladies Offer Their Services.

The members of Ladies' Union, Veteran Legion Auxiliary, No. 32, of this city, under date of April 9, sent to the President of the United States a letter indorsing his course in reference to the Maine disaster and

The communication was signed by Mrs. Harriet L. Scribner and was as follows: "We, the mothers, wives, widows, sisters and daughters of Union veterans and army nurses of the war of '61 to '65, who compose this organization, desire to express our

appreciation of the deliberation and reluctance shown by you in plunging our country in grievous warfare. "The horrors of the late war are fresh in our memories, our hearts are still aching from the loss of our dear ones sacrificed to preserve the Union, and we witness daily the pain and suffering incurred in veteran service, all of which cause the cry of 'war'

to bring terror to our souls. "Because of this knowledge our nation's dignity and honor are more dear to us, and if to maintain them it should be decided necessary to lay anew the flower of America's manhood on our country's altar, we the Ladies' Union Vete. an Legion of Washington, D. C., Auxiliary No. 32, hereby tender our services to you, to be commanded in whatever way we can best serve the interests of our country to the extent of our abilities.

Mr. J. Addison Porter, secretary to the President, sent Mrs. Scribner the following

"I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of recent date, addressed to the President, the contents of which he has carefully noted. I assure you of the President's sincere appreciation of your cordial words of approval of the policy pursued by the administration in regard to the matter to which you refer.'

The members of the legion have arranged o give an entertainment in aid of the movement they have undertaken tomorrow evening. A silver contribution or offering will be expected at the door.

Exciting Scenes. There was great excitement about the Center Market Armory of the D. C. N. G. last night. The armory itself was brilliant with lights and a large crowd had gathered outside to watch the soldier boys coming and going. It was momentarily expected that orders would be issued to call the militla out, and this was the primary cause of the suspense. There was some drilling on the avenue, and the spectacle of men in uniform walking to and fro caused something of a sensation. The men were at the armory until midnight, as they had been given verbal instructions to be ready to re-

port at a moment's notice. Several conferences with army officials were held by Gen. Harries yesterday, and t was expected that the militia would certainly be called out. In all probability the order will be issued today or tomorrow at the latest.

It is stated that recruiting among the lifferent companies is continuing at an unprecedented rate, and the companies are being filled up with their full quotas. An entirely new company has been formed from raw material. Its captain, G. B. Young, formerly inspector of rifle practice for the old Engineer Battalion, has been busy getting his men in shape. At present his company numbers about fifty men and will be known as Company D of the 6th Battalion.

Light Battery A of the District Guard has had its strength brought up to ninetynine, having had an accession of thirtythree new members. It is commanded by Captain Charles B. Hine, a former West Pointer. When it takes the field it will carry with it six of the 3.2-inch guns, like those used in the regular army. The men who have been selected for service in this battery have nearly all had military experience of some kind. More than sixty-five applications were refused on account of in-

Fifth Battalion Recruited.

Of the 5th Battalion, Captain King, Company P has added about forty recruits to its original quota of forty men; Company C, 4th, Captain B. K. Streeks commanding, has added twenty-five new men to its fifty-two formerly; Company B, 4th, Captain J. E. Hosford, has added twenty-five new members to its original fifty-two; Company A of the 4th, the Emmett Guards. has added twenty-eight men to its quota of fifty-three; the Corcoran Cadets, Captain E. C. Edwards, and the Morton Cadets, Captain E. B. Chisholm, have each enlisted about ten new men. Company D of the 2d, Captain Fred J. Stutz, has added twenty recruits to its forty old members. Most of the companies in the guard have received accessions to their number, and nearly all of them have filled out to the

The Brigade Ambulance Corps, commanded by Lieutenant W. D. Fales, M. D., has received an addition of four or five members, and the corps now has its full complement. Lieutenant Fales has given lectures almost nightly to the physicians, medical students, pharmacists and nurses who compose the corps. He has reviewed the anatomy of the human body; the best methods of stopping hemorrhages, the best methods of giving attention to the wounded and the hygiene of camp life. His corps is divided into corps of squads of four men each, and each squad is in charge of a stretcher.

Abolition of Staffs.

It is said that one of the most important changes to be made will be the abolition of the battalion staffs and the reduction of the rank of regimental staff officers from captain to first lieutenant. The majers will be retained, but none of the other battalion officers. Adjt. Gen. Heyl consulted for two hours

last night with Commissary Gen. Neumeyer. It was held in order to effect an understanding as regards the location and management of the headquarters of the

(Continued on Second Page.)

CHANGE OF MINISTRY IN

vela to Queen Regent. veda to Queen Regent.

MADRID, April 23.-The queen regent has had a consultation with Senors Silvela and Romero Robledo, the conscrvative leaders. The former said he agreed with the declarations of Marshal Martinez de Campos when the latter said: "There are only two parties in Spain. One is for peace and the second is for war. The first has failed and the second ought now to be called."

Senor Gamazo, the liberal leader, urged the Sagasta cabinet to continue in office The premier on leaving the palace at 2 o'clock this afternoon declared that there was absolutely no foundation in the rumors of a cabinet crisis. Senor Sagasta has received grandiloquent accounts of the demonstrations in favor of Spain which have recently taken place at Havana. The premier during the day announced that the senate will meet tomorrow and that the chamber will meet on Monday.

An immense crowd witnessed the military parade in front of the palace yesterday morning, and intense enthusiasm was displayed when the young king appeared on a balcony. A big demonstration has been arranged to take place before the Military Club.

CADETS OFFER THEIR SERVICES. Gov. Tyler of Virginia Wants Troops at Richmond.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star RICHMOND, Va., April 23.-Governor Tyler yesterday received a letter from the cadets of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute offering the services of the entire corps, consisting of four companies of infantry and one light battery, in the event of war. Inspector General J. Love Stern left last night for Washington bearing important letters from General Fitzhugh Lee and Governor Tyler to the Secretary of War, asking that Richmond be designated as a point for the mobilization of northern and

point for the mobilization of northern and central western troops.

General Lee was not in favor of this movement until he had a conference with Governor Tyler and other officials here yesterday. At this conference it was shown that Richmond would be a good railroad center for the troops and an excellent place for General Lee to make up his division, when General Lee did not longer hesitate, but urged that Colonel Stern be sent to Washington at once and set forth these facts to the War Department.

CUBA IN STATE OF SIEGE.

Late Decree Published by Captain General Blanco. HAVANA, April 23.—Captain General

Blanco has published a decree confirming his previous decrees and declaring the island to be in a state of war. He also annuls his former similar decrees granting pardon to insurgents and places under martial law all those who are guilty of treason, espionage, crimes against peace or agains the independence of the nation, seditious revolts, attacks against the form of government, or against the authorities and against those whe disturb public order, though only by means of printed matter.

French Fleet Coming West. naval division of the French northern squadron is under orders to keep in constant proximity to the Antilles during hos-

Paris Passes the Lizard.

FALMOUTH, England, April 23.-The American line steamer Paris, chartered by the United States government, and which according to report, the Spaniards are trying to capture, passed the Lizard yesterday evening, and should now be well on her way west. She left Southampton yesterday afternoon.

Capt. Bradford Wants a Ship. A notable retirement from the Navy De partment has occurred in the case of Capt Royal B. Bradford, chief of the equip ment division. Although he has not held his present office long and by custom is entitled to nearly three years of further service there, he has become so impatient to join in active service that he yesterday addressed the following letter to the Presi dent: "I respectfully tender my resigna tion as chief of the bureau of equipmen of the Navy Department. It has been great pleasure to serve during your ad ministration in my pending capac conferred upon me by your appointment to such a responsible office. This resigna-tion is fendered only that I may ask for active service affoat."

Captain Bradford addressed a similar letter to Secretary Long with the addition of a request to have a command of ar active warship. The resignation will be accepted and by virtue of his rank, as wel as to mark the high regard entertained for him by the administration, Captain Bradford will be given one of the best of the available ships in the navy.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS. Directed to Give Notice of the Cubar

Blockade. Secretary Gage has telegraphed all col lectors of customs on the Atlantic, gulf and Pacific seaboard that all ports on the north coast of Cuba from Cardenas to Bahia Honda, which include Havana and Matanzas, and also Cienfueges on the south coast, had been blockaded by the United States. Collectors were instructed to communicate this notification in writing to al foreign consuls in their respective districts proper authorities through the War and to the masters of all vessels applying Department. for clearances to the blockaded port

ports in the vicinity.

The instructions will prevent loss to ship pers and ship owners, and at the say simplify the work of the blockading squad-ron. Collectors were also instructed to telegraph the names of all Spanish vessels in their districts, but it is believed that few now remain in American ports.

Mr. Schermerhorn's Offer. Secretary Long has been notified by Mr

F. Augustus Schermerhorn of New York that he will give his steam launch Free Lance to the government for nothing. This patriotic gift has been acknowledged by Secretary Long in a letter expressing the thanks of the Navy Department. The Free Lance is an exceptionally good yacht for naval purposes, and she has already been fisted among those which the gov-ernment desires to purchase. She is 150 feet long, and is said to be very fast This is the first outright gift of a ship to the for naval purposes, and she has already is the first outright gift of a ship to the navy, and it is in rather marked contrast with the terms of acquisition of other steam yachts, tugs, etc.

At Indian Head yesterday a trial was made of a turret plate representing the armor of the battle ship Kearsarge. The plate varied from fifteen to seventeen inches in thickness and was attacked by two shots from a 12-inch gun, the first at a velocity of 1,312 feet per second pene-trating thirteen inches and a second at 1,780 getting through the plate, but not the backing. As a result the government accepted 519 tons of the armor.

Testing Armor Plate.

12:50 O'CLOCK P.M.

A Call For One Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand

VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKED FOR

To Serve for Two Years, Unless Sooner Discharged.

CHANCE FOR PATRIOTS

The Quota of the Different States and Territories.

TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT

The President today issued the following proclamation calling for 125,ooo troops to serve two years: By the President of the United

States—A Proclamation: Whereas, by a joint resolution of Congress approved on the 20th day of April, 1898, entitled "Joint resolution for the recognition of the in-BREST, France, April 23.-The Atlantic dependence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and tain of the Paris was warned to run for government in the Island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval the Paris passed the Lizard at 11:45 o'clock forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect,"

> Whereas, by an act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide "for temporarily increasing the military Establishment of the United States in time of war and for other purposes,' approved April 22, 1898; the President is authorized, in order to raise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation calling for volunteers to serve in the army of the United States;

Now, therefore, I, William Mc-Kinley, President of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, and deeming sufficient occasion to exist, have thought fit to call forth and hereby do call forth volunteers to the aggregate number of 125,000, in order to carry into effect the purpose of the said resolution; the same to be apportioned, as far as practicable, among the several states and territories and the District of Columbia, according to population, and to serve for two years, unless sooner

The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-third day of April, A. D.

United States the one hundred and twenty-second. (Seal) WILLIAM McKINLEY.

1898, and of the independence of the

By the President: JOHN SHERMAN. Secretary of State.

ANOTHER CABINET CHANGE. Judge Day Likely to Succeed Secre

Secretary Sherman, it is almost certain will leave the cabinet. Assistant Secretary Day is his probable successor.

Vessel in Collision With the Albatron is Accounted For. LONDON, April 23.-The United States

CRUISER TOPEKA IS SAFE.

cruiser Tojeka is safe. The steamer which

collided with the Albatross has been iden-

If you want to buy, sell or exchange anything. lease property or rent rooms, want a situation or want help, it will pay you to announce the fact in the advertising columns of The Star. They are closely studied by more than three times as many people as read any other paper.

LYING OFF HAVANA

Admiral Sampson's Fleet Will Move in Closer Today.

YORK CAPTURES A PRIZE

Spanish Freighter Pedro Bilboa Brought Into Key West.

WAR ON IN EARNEST

Special From a Staff Correspondent.

OFF HAVANA FRIDAY NIGHT, via Key West, Fla., April 23. -Admiral Sampson's fleet tonight lies twelve miles off Havana to the east. The blockade began by the capture of a Spanish freighter named Pedro Bilboa, at 5:35 o'clock this evening. The torpedo boat Foote doing scout duty in shore discovered the freighter and reported it to the flagship. Admiral Sampson at once had the New York steam away from the fleet in pursuit.

The Bilboa discovered her danger and sought to scud away. A shot across her bow from the New York brought her to and she was at once boarded by a detachment of marines and sailors, under Ensign Marble. The Spanish flag was hauled down and the ship sent to Key West.

Another steamer found to be flying the German flag was allowed to Tomorrow (Saturday) morning

the fleet is expected to move closer to Havana, probably within range of the guns in the shore batteries.

PEPPER. PARIS REPORTED CAPTURED.

Another Rumor is That She is Re turning to Port. LONDON, April 23 .- A report was in cireplation today that the American Liner Paris, chartered by the United States government, which sailed from Southampton yesterday afternoon for New York, had been captured by the Spaniards. A second report said the Paris was returning to Southampton. Both reports are discredited. The first rumor appears to have arisen from the fact that before sailing the capthe nearest port in case of danger. As to the second rumor, it is pointed out that

LOSS OF TOPEKA DISCREDITED.

Rumor Based on Report of Captain of the Albatrons LONDON, April 23.-At the United States embassy here, and in other quarters, no confirmation has been received of the report from Falmouth that the United States cruiser Topeka, formerly the Diagenes, which left Falmouth on Tuesday evening, has foundered in collision with the bark

Albatross. The captain of the Albatross, on arrival at Falmouth, reported that he had been in collision with a steamer at midnight on Tuesday, which afterward flashed a light and suddenly disappeared. He expressed the belief that she foundered, and was under the impression that she may have been the Topeka. The news is discredited here.

WILL CUT CUBAN CABLES.

The Mangrove Leaves Key West With KEY WEST, Fla., April 23.-The United States steamer Mangrove left here at 5:30 o'clock this morning fully equipped as a cable ship. She headed southeast, and her destination is said to be the south of Cuba. There, it is believed, she will cut off cable communication with the island proper, so far as the southern cables are concerned. It is understood she is to be convoyed by one or more warships. Another report has it, on the authority of one of her officers, that she is going out to the Key West

ship channel to remove the buoys SPAIN TAKES THE SHENANDOAR

Four-Masted Ship Belonging to Arthur Sewall of Maine. LONDON, April 23.-It is reported here that the Spaniards have captured the American ship Shenandoah, Capt. Murphy, which left San Francisco on January 5, for Liverpool. She is a four-masted vessel of 3,280 tons register and owned by Arthur Sewall & Company of Bath, Me.

COAL WILL BE CONTRABAND.

Reported Official Notification to Spain LONDON, April 23.-According to a special dispatch from Madrid, the Spanish government has been officially notified that Great Britain will regard coal as contraband of war. Another special dispatch from the Spanish capital announces that the government of Spain has been re-

disposed to exercise the right of search FLEET IN SIGHT OF HAVANA.

Its Appearance Arouses Enthusiasa HAVANA, April 22, 8:30 p. m. (delayed in transmission).—The city of Havana is agitated by war enthusiasm. The United States fleet can be seen in the offing. Great confidence is felt among the Spanish in the effectiveness of their batteries. Crowds before nightfall assembled at every point of vantage to gaze upon the blockading

Auxiliary Naval Force. The Secretary of the Navy has sent to the House committee on naval affairs an urgent request for immediate action on a joint resolution he submits creating a United States auxiliary naval force for coast defense.